

FSSAC Quarterly Meeting

November 16, 2005

Room 306, Sanders Building

Helena, MT

Members Present: Diana Colgrove (Chair), Kelly Johnson, Sylvia Danforth, Cindy Sinclair, Micah Mitchell, Gerald Pease, Sandi Marisdotter, Sandi McGennis, Anna Carpenter (for Patti Russ), Ted Maloney, Dan McCarthy, Addie Haugen, Mary Huston (Vice Chair - by phone)

Others Present: Erica Swanson (DDP Child & Family Liaison); Jackie Emerson (recorder- DDP Program Assistant)

Diana welcomed everyone. People introduced themselves and told what group they represent.

Changes were made to the agenda: At 1:00 the checklist for the SPP will be reviewed instead of the draft of the SPP; add a discussion of the APR review from OSEP.

Minutes: The minutes from the Summit on August 17 & 18 were reviewed. Amendment: On page 3 under the Parent Story, Sierra received services from Family Outreach from the age of 5 weeks instead of receiving 5 weeks of services.

Sylvia made a motion that the minutes be accepted with the amendment. Kelly seconded the motion. And all voted in favor.

APR Review: Erica received the letter from OSEP regarding the review of the last APR submitted in March. The annual report included a response to the report submitted the year before. The review from OSEP was very positive. Montana is in compliance with IDEA and there were no corrections requested. They also said that they look forward to the next report to be submitted. A notice will be sent to newspapers around the State to let the public know about the review. Sylvia commended Erica and Ted on work well done and asked for a copy of the letter for providers so it can be included in newsletters and websites.

Opening for FSS: Erica has received 2 letters and one more is expected regarding nominations for the vacant Family Support Specialist (FSS) position on the Council. The three letters are for Audrey Pierce (intake coordinator from ECI), Twyla Kannegiesser (from STEP), and Priscilla Halcro (from QLC). Diana read the two letters and Erica asked if anyone on the Council would like to give an oral statement in support of the nomination of Priscilla so the Council would not need to wait for the letter to arrive before completing the nomination process.

Sylvia reported that Priscilla has 20+ years of hands on experience with our services and currently works closely with the FSS's at QLC. She is a wonderful advocate for children and families and would be a great asset to the Council. Ted agreed. Kelly stated that she

has been on committees with Priscilla and has found her to be great to work with and agrees that she would be a great asset.

Sylvia said that any of the 3 would be good to have on the Council. Erica asked for a motion to nominate one of the 3. Sylvia nominated Priscilla to represent Family Support Specialists on the Council. Kelly seconded the nomination. All voted in favor.

Priscilla's name will be submitted to the Governor for approval with the names of Audrey and Twyla as alternate choices.

Governor's appointments: The Governor's list of appointments has been published for other Councils but the FSSAC was not on the list so there have been no final appointments for this group.

Other vacancies on the Council included Children's Mental Health, Children's Special Health, Region 2 parent representatives, and a Medical provider.

Parent Story: Robin is the mother of Quentin who has received Part C early intervention services through DEAP. After his birth the doctors had no clear diagnosis for Quentin except that he had benign tumors and a failure to thrive. After PT/OT and speech therapy and the services of Lynette, their FSS, Robin was happy to report that Quentin at age 3 is running and talking which she attributes to the power of early intervention services. She recently received the wonderful news that Quentin no longer needs to see his neurologist. And his pulmonologist has taken him off all medications, which had previously cost \$600 per month. Robin expressed her appreciation to DEAP!

At the next meeting, Gerald will bring a parent from Region 3 for the Parent Story.

By Laws: The by-laws were amended at the last meeting and the changes were sent out to the Council members for review. With no further amendments, Dan made a motion to approve the by-laws as amended. Sylvia seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Improvement Comprehensive Strategic Plan: (Ted) The emphasis of this plan will be on accountability and improvement – not across all areas but in certain areas of concern to OSEP. In the past the State has been reactive instead of proactive. This plan identifies areas that the system needs to be improved. Erica, Ted, and the Part C workgroup have been working off this plan for the State Performance Plan. The document will be sent out for review and approval. The workgroup has adopted the plan and is supposed to take back to the agencies for implementation.

The Council reviewed the plan and needs to approve the work done by the Part C workgroup. Kelly made a motion that the Council approve the work. Mary seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Reports:

Montana will submit the SPP in December and be in compliance with the changes to 2005 IDEA Rules and Regulations as they were expected to be. OSEP has sent out notice

that the changes to the Rules and Regulations have been put on hold. The Annual Performance Report will be due on February 1, 2007. The data will begin to be measured now and changes need to be made to collect data that is not currently being collected.

The 618 Data Child Count this year will not require data Table 4 for Services or Table 5 on Personnel. OSEP is expecting to permanently do away with those tables and possibly adding a table on Dispute Resolutions. The tables have been sent out to Child and Family providers for reporting. The data is due to OSEP on February 1, 2006.

GSEG: The General Supervision Enhancement Grant has 2 components: 1) designing data collection for the SPP and APR outcomes, and 2) a training component. Providers have been surveyed to see what assessment tools are currently being used on order to determine if they are the best practices. A collection of topics for training is being gathered and Erica and Ted will work with the CSPD to attempt to include the topics needed. Mary Steenberg will work with the Regional Councils of the CSPD. Each Regional CSPD will be given \$3000 for training for subjects with an early childhood focus.

ECO Center, Kathy Hebbeler presentation: On October 26th, Kathy Hebbeler from the Early Childhood Outcome Center met with the Part C Workgroup to review Indicators 3 (Child Outcomes) and 4 (Family Outcomes) on the SPP and help them determine how to collect the data. The workgroup felt it was a very helpful and productive session. The Council reviewed the handout of the PowerPoint presentation by Kathy at the session.

The Part C workgroup had some reservations about how to make the data uniform across agencies but agreed on the process. They will be looking for a way to build the data collection process into the IFSP process without creating an extra burden to the families and staff.

No DDP Update. Jeff and Tim were meeting with the Rates Implementation workgroup to form recommendations for the Rates Advisory Committee regarding how and when the future phases of the Rates Project should be implemented.

SPP: Erica and Ted have a working draft of the State Performance Report but the draft is not quite final. As soon as it is finished it will be sent out for review and feedback. The report is due in Washington, DC on December 2 so feedback will have to be in by November 28th. Even if there are no comments, Ted asked that people respond by email with an approval or disapproval.

The Council reviewed the current version of the draft. The Council members wanted to commend Erica and Ted on taking the complex areas and making them understandable. Good Job! Dan made a motion for the Council to formally recognize the work Erica has done with the support of Ted and Jackie. Kelly seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Website Update: The DDP website is being redesigned and updated. Jackie will be working on updating the FSSAC website which will have to be put on the State template.

Agency Reports:

OPI/Dan - Like the Developmental Disabilities Program's IDEA Part C program, the OPI is fully wrapped up in developing its State Performance Plan (SPP), due in Washington, D.C. the first week of December. Three performance indicators that the OPI needs to address and directly affect young children with disabilities and relate to Part C are:

- #6 Percent of preschool children with IEPs who received special education and related services in settings with typically developing peers (e.g., early childhood settings, home, and part-time early childhood/part-time early childhood special education settings);
- #7 Percent of preschool children with an IEP who demonstrate improved (a) Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships); (b) Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/ communication and early literacy); and (c) Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs; and
- #12 Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays.

Please note that indicator #7 for the IDEA Part B SPP is identical to the Part C SPP indicator #3. As discussed during the meeting, the strategies proposed to gather the information required for this indicator will be gathered in very similar manner for both children 6 months through two and for those ages three through five.

Dan also discussed the strategy for collecting the data required for performance indicator #7. First, the *Individualized Education Program* (IEP) form and procedures will be modified to require IEP teams to address three questions that yield the data, that is, whether each 3, 4, or 5 year old child present level of functional performance, relative the each component of the indicator, is at a level comparable to same-age peers, improved but not at the same level as peers, or not improved since the past assessment. Second, the *Evaluation Plan* form and procedures will be modified, if necessary, to inform parents about required assessments and to obtain their consent to collect the required information. Third, a *Frequently Asked Question* document is being developed to advise about the proposed data collection and procedures. The OPI intends to have these changes in place at the first of the new year.

Finally, Dan discussed IDEA 2004 changes that are likely to impact transition from IDEA Part C to Part B. The *Special Education Meeting Notice* form will be revised to document that the district will invite the Family Support Specialist to the child's initial Child Study Team and IEP meetings. Likewise, the notice will advise that the IEP team will consider the content of the Individual Family Service Plan when developing the child's initial IEP. Likewise, Dan discussed how the IDEA 2004 imposed a maximum 60-day timeline between the date the district receives parental consent to conduct the initial evaluation it proposed and the date of the initial evaluation, that is, Child Study Team meeting. For many years, the IDEA has required a maximum 30-day timeline between initial evaluation and initial meeting to develop an IEP. Combined, these two

timelines impose a 90-day window between the parental consent for evaluation and initial IEP meeting, regardless of school schedules. Fortunately, the IDEA Part C transition requirements coincide with this timeline.

UNBHS/Sandy McGennis: The Universal Newborn Hearing Screening taskforce group met in November. The identification diagnosis part of the system is working well. The next meeting will be used to discuss services.

Early Childhood/Anna Carpenter: The Childcare Plus Institute will be March 14, 15, and 16.

2006 FSSAC MEETING SCHEDULE: The decision was made to set the schedule for the year and stick with the schedule. The group decided on the second Thursday of each month. The meetings for the year will be: March 9, May 11, (Summit) August 9 & 10 and November 9th.

Erica will invite Priscilla to the next meeting even though the Governor's appointment probably won't be finalized.

Agenda items for the next meeting:

- Family Story
- Part C Systems Improvement
- SPP
- State Application
- Membership
- UNBHS
- Childcare Plus Institute (Patti)
- DDP Update (Children's services rates update)
- Invite: Joan Miles (DPHHS Director) and the new LFA representative